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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria

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1. "The Soviets are carrying out a new propaganda drive (November 1952) in preparation for the forthcoming Peace Congress to be held in Vienna 12 December 1952.

2. "Austrian police employees serving in the Soviet sector of Vienna are being forced to sign a new Peace Appeal which will be submitted to the Congress. Three Austrian police officials are in charge of this Soviet-dictated propaganda drive. They are:

3. "Though all three of these men have been officially dismissed from the Austrian Police Force, they continue to work on behalf of the Soviets in their respective districts. According to Austrian law, they no longer have any authority. But they are backed by the Soviet authorities, and the subordinate police have no other choice but to obey their orders. Should they resist, the Soviets would arrest them as enemies of the occupation power.

4. "In view of this situation, all Austrian police employees in the Soviet sector will be forced to sign the Appeal by the time the Congress opens. To avoid signing the Appeal, Austrian policemen have but one choice: to ask to be transferred to the Western sectors of Vienna by the Austrian Ministry of Interior. This would mean, of course, that they could never return to the Soviet sector and that they would have to give up their apartments in the Soviet sector without compensation."

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